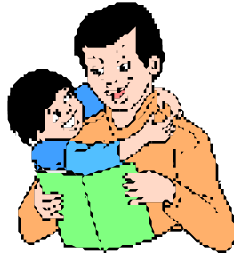


# Early Years are Learning Years

Helping children learn about reading





**Question:** Why read a book to a baby? Why sing to a toddler?




**Answer:** Because reading and singing help children learn.  
When you read and sing, children feel warm and safe.  
Reading and singing brings your children closer to you.

**Here are tips to help your children learn:**



## Babies

-  Talk or sing to baby in the bath or at lunchtime.
-  Give baby cardboard or cloth books with pictures. Point out words.



## Toddlers

-  Read stories before bed. If you do not read well, tell a story.
-  Let toddlers "write" shopping lists with you.
-  Point out words on signs at the park or when walking.

## Preschoolers

-  Give your child things to "play" at writing and reading—checks or menus.
-  Play picture-card games with your child.

## School-aged children

-  Keep reading with your child or telling her stories, especially at bedtime, even if she has already learned to read.
-  Listen to her stories and jokes. Ask her to write them down for you to read.

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